

DASHWOOD FIRE HALL BYLAW AMENDMENTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That “Dashwood Fire Hall Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1785.01, 2022” be introduced, read three times, and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.
2. That “Dashwood Fire Hall Loan Authorization Amendment Bylaw No. 1789.01 2022” be introduced, read three times, and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.
3. That the approval of the electors be obtained by an alternative approval process, and that participating area approval is to be obtained for the entire service area.
4. That the Board approve the Elector Response form as provided in Attachment 3, establish 4:00 p.m on Monday, June 20, 2022 as the deadline for receiving elector responses for the alternative approval process, and determine the total number of electors to which the approval process applies to be 1,542.

BACKGROUND

At the December 7, 2021 Regional District of Nanaimo Board meeting, the Board endorsed the following motions:

1. That the project budget for the Dashwood Fire Hall be increased from \$4,150,000 to \$6,462,662.
2. That an amendment to the “Dashwood Fire Hall Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1785, 2019” be drafted to increase the maximum requisition amount and presented to the Board for consideration.
3. That an amendment to the “Dashwood Fire Hall Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1789, 2019” be drafted to increase the amount of borrowing authorized and presented to the Board for consideration.
4. That the associated electoral approval documents be drafted and presented to the Board for consideration.
5. That the 2022 Dashwood operating budget be increased by \$10,000 for the cost of the elector approval process.

The associated elector approval document (Attachment 3) is provided to obtain approval of the Board to initiate an alternative approval process (AAP) to obtain elector approval to amend the service establishment bylaw and the loan authorization bylaw to increase the maximum requisition amount and borrowing required to replace the Dashwood fire hall. As part of the AAP, the Board must provide three readings to both the service establishment amendment bylaw and the loan authorization amendment bylaw, set the deadline for receiving elector response forms, approve the elector response form, and determine the number of electors of the area to which the AAP applies (parts of Electoral Areas, F, G, and H).

For consideration of Board approval, “Dashwood Fire Hall Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1785.01, 2022” (Attachment 1) and “Dashwood Fire Hall Loan Authorization Amendment Bylaw No. 1789.01 2022” (Attachment 2) is attached for the Board’s review. If the Board gives Bylaw No. 1785.01 and Bylaw No. 1789.01 three readings and adopts the recommendations, the bylaws will be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for the approval of the Inspector. Following approval, the notice of the AAP will be published. The deadline for receiving elector response forms must be established by the Board and be at least 30 days after the second publication of the notice. The recommended date is Monday, June 20, 2022.

Pursuant to section 86(1) of the *Community Charter*, approval of the electors has been obtained if, at the end of the time period for receiving elector response forms, the number of response forms received is less than 10% of the number of electors of the area to which the approval process applies. This AAP process applies to a portion of Electoral Areas F, G and H, and the total number of electors of the participating areas is determined to be 1,542. Therefore, if less than 154 elector response forms are received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 20, 2022, elector approval is deemed to have been obtained and the Board can proceed to adopt Bylaw No. 1785.01 and Bylaw No. 1789.01.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The project budget (\$6,462,662) and cost of the AAP (\$10,000) have been included in the 2022 Dashwood budget in accordance with Board resolution numbers 21-635 and 21-639.

Based on an estimated interest rate of 3.5%, the annual debt payment cost will be \$407,311 per year, including interest and principal. If the project proceeds, borrowing would be amortized over 25 years at an approximate annual cost of \$49.93 per \$100,000 of property assessment based on the 2022 completed roll assessments.

The average residential property value in the Dashwood Fire Hall service area is estimated at \$903,830. The additional tax cost for the new fire hall would total approximately \$451.28 per year for the average residential property.

Borrowing will increase from \$4,000,000 to \$6,243,662 with the remaining \$219,000 being funded from reserves for a total budget of \$6,462,662.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Social Wellbeing - Make the Region a safe and vibrant place for all, with a focus on children and families in programs and planning.

REVIEWED BY:

T. Moore, Acting Director of Finance
J. Hill, Manager Legislative Services
D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Dashwood Fire Hall Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1785.01, 2022
2. Dashwood Fire Hall Loan Authorization Amendment Bylaw No. 1789.01 2022
3. Elector Response Form